

On page 10, the paragraph beginning at line 19 and continuing to the following page please substitute the following paragraph therefore:

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The continuous filament nonwoven webs can be prepared utilizing conventional web forming processes that have been modified as described herein. As examples, both spunbond processes and meltblown processes can be used in conjunction with the present invention. Regional fibers of distinct polymer composition can be achieved by modifying conventional spin pack assemblies. Spin packs generally comprise a series of stacked plates that have a pattern of interconnecting channels and/or apertures through which multiple polymer streams can flow. The polymer streams are maintained separate as the respective polymer streams flow throughout the spin pack to the distribution plate, spinneret and/or die capillary. Examples of such spin packs are described in US Patent No. 5,344,297 to Hills, U.S. Patent No. 5,466,410 to Hills, U.S. Patent No. 5,853,635 to Morell et al. and U.S. Patent [Application] No. [08/955,719] 5,989,004 to Cook; the entire contents of each of the aforesaid references are incorporated herein by reference. Conventional spin packs can be modified to deliver the respective polymer streams to the desired outlet openings within the spin plate or spinneret. In addition, distinct first and second regions can be achieved by merging separate spunbond fiber streams, prior to web laydown, to create a single coflowing filament stream upon exit from the fiber draw unit. By merging the filaments prior to web laydown, the resulting composite web can have an area where the first and second filaments become mixed, i.e. where the first and second regions partially overlap. Thus, the first and second regions become and/or can be bonded such that the interface between the first and second regions is substantially similar to the appearance and/or structure of that of the first and/or second regions. This allows formation of a unitary composite nonwoven web without the need to fixedly attach the two regions by external means such as would be required by simply seaming, stitch bonding, adhesively bonding two separate nonwoven webs together. In addition, after fiber laydown and formation of the web, the composite nonwoven web can be further acted upon and/or processed as desired. As an example, the entire web can be bonded to form a durable, integrated web. The unitary nonwoven web can be thermally point bonded and/or through-air bonded as desired in order to impart additional integrity thereto.

ABH
YB
Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claims 16-20 as follows:

1. A composite nonwoven web comprising: